

INFORMATION REPORT
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CD NO. 25X1A

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT Activities of Professor Dr. Robert Rompe
in Connection with Physikalische Berichte
and Inquiries for Scientific Information

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. Professor Dr. Robert Rompe, Referent for science and universities in the Central Administration for Education and People's Enlightenment in the Soviet Zone, has indicated great interest in Physikalische Berichte, a publication issued by the Society of Physics in Württemberg-Baden and edited by Dr. Michael Schon, who is also a lecturer at Heidelberg University. The Physikalische Berichte, which is published at irregular intervals, contains summaries of articles on physics; it is the only one of its kind published in Germany, but is also distributed abroad. The publication has been hard-pressed by financial difficulties and, for several months, has been unable to pay the salaries of its personnel. It may be compelled to cease operations soon.
2. Professor Rompe has suggested the following plan to enable the continuation of the Physikalische Berichte: The Akademie Verlag in Berlin will establish a branch at Stuttgart in compliance with the requirements of the Württemberg-Baden press law which was passed on [REDACTED]. This branch, 25X1A to be called the Akademie Verlag GmbH, will be owned jointly by the Akademie Verlag in Berlin and the Society of Physics in Württemberg-Baden. The Berlin Akademie Verlag will be represented by one Biber, a publishing expert who is its present representative in Stuttgart; he will assume the management of the Stuttgart Akademie Verlag. The Society of Physics will be represented by two persons, one of whom will be Dr. Schon. The Stuttgart Verlag will take over the publishing of the Physikalische Berichte, guaranteeing to bring out a monthly issue and to be financially responsible for all debts. The capital investment will be 60,000 DM, to consist of equal contributions from the three representatives, but the Berlin Verlag will furnish the actual funds. No larger capital is essential since Professor Rompe will obligate himself to purchase, with Westmarks, as many copies of the Physikalische Berichte as may be necessary to yield a profit; he will then arrange for their distribution in the Soviet Zone. The required funds will come from the Central Administration for Education and People's Enlightenment. Dr. Schon will continue to edit the Physikalische Berichte, without interference from the Berlin Verlag or any authority in the Soviet Zone.
3. Professor Rompe is attempting to obtain from Western Germany detailed information on the following scientific problems and affairs:

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letter of 16 October 1978 from the
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- a. Virus research.
- b. The so-called g-factor (relation between magnetic and mechanic momentums).*
- c. Technical improvements of the phase-contrast procedure, which is used in microscopy making superfluous the dyeing of objects by use of the differences in refraction indices.
- d. Status of spark discharge research in Western Germany and elsewhere, more particularly information on this subject which was contributed by the physicist Glaser at a meeting of spark discharge specialists in Heidelberg at the end of January 1949.
- e. Sparks as conducting elements.
- f. Varitrons, as known to the West.**
- g. Copies of all papers on the theory of nuclear particles written by Born of Edinburgh and Bopp of Hamburg.
- h. Financial condition of scientific research institutes in Western Germany. Do they have enough funds, who provides them, and how are they being used?
- i. Status of industrial research in Western Germany. What significant activity is taking place.
- j. Production of X-ray tubes. Where, in Western Germany, are they produced; what types are produced; and can such tubes be acquired through interzonal trade?
- k. Bearing metals for motors. What progress has been made in this field, particularly regarding bronzes, calcium-lead and strontium-lead?
- l. Shaped charge in connection with the speed of the atom.***
- m. Mechanical and thermal qualities of zircon and niobium in ductile condition--i.e., in condition of deformability.
- n. Magic numbers. Has Jensen continued to work on these numbers and what progress has he made?****
- o. Allegation by Korsching that alpha ray emitting transuranic matters occur in nature. Has this allegation been confirmed or any new development discovered?*****
- p. Structural analyses (geometrical pattern of atoms in crystal lattice). Is it possible to have these analyses made in Western Germany and where?
- q. Recent developments on application of photochemistry in technics. Particularly, what are recent developments concerning the release of chemical reactions through the influence of light, and what does Weizel know about this? ***
- r. Report that Hahn, nuclear physicist at Göttingen, and Strassmann, nuclear chemist at Mainz, have been invited to England. Is this true and have they accepted the invitation?

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Comment: Because of the close association between Professor Rompe and the Soviet authorities, it is believed that the inquiries set forth in paragraph 3 indicate that the Russians are probably engaged in such research.

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*25X1A ~~Comment:~~ This g-factor, which has so far been assumed to have the exact value of two for electrons, is actually slightly larger, about 2.2 per mille.

25X1A ~~Comment:~~ Varitrons are a particularly heavy kind of mesons whose masses range from a hundred to thirty thousand times that of the electron mass; they have allegedly been discovered by Russian scientists.

25X1A *** ~~Comment:~~ This subject concerns acceleration devices for atom-physical purposes.

**** ~~Comment:~~ Professor Johannes D. Jensen was with the Hannover Technische Hochschule until January 1949 and is now at the Heidelberg University. During 1949, in collaboration with Suss of Hamburg and Haxel of Göttingen, he wrote three articles on magic numbers, offering a theoretical explanation for them with the aid of the nuclear spin theory. These articles were published in Naturwissenschaften at Springer, Heidelberg. Magic numbers are certain numbers, such as 2, 8, 20, 28, 50, 82, etc., which play a role in the statistics of atomic nuclei. They indicate the amount of protons or neutrons in certain elements of high occurrence—if they are stable—or of long duration—if they are unstable—as compared with other elements.

25X1A ***** ~~Comment:~~ After the end of the war, Korsching, formerly with the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Physics in Hechingen and since 1947 in Göttingen, contributed an article, published in the Naturwissenschaften, affirming the natural occurrence of alpha ray emitting transuranic elements, such as plutonium.

***** ~~Comment:~~ After the First World War, Professor Walter Weizel of Bonn University did some research work for I.G. Farben on vitamin synthesis, applying photochemistry to that field.

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